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COUNTRY Germany (Soviet Zone)

REPORT NO.

TOPIC Herseburg Airfield

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EVALUATION

PLACE OBTAINED

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DATE OF CONTENT

DATE OBTAINED

DATE PREPARED

16 June 1952

REFERENCES

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ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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1. During the period from 19 to 26 April 1952, there was no flying at Herseburg airfield. On 22, 23 and 25 April, 26 MiG-15s were parked on the eastern and southern edges of the landing field. No numbers could be observed on the planes. At 6 p.m. on 25 April, 900 to 1,100 airmen fell in for an inspection on the landing field. * Shortly afterwards, a sedan arrived from which three probably high ranking officers alighted. After the unit was reviewed by the officers, the soldiers sang a song. * a speech followed.
2. On 1 May, there was a May Day parade by the civilian population. A group of seven Soviet officers wearing golden epaulets with blue braid was observed. The ranking officer was a lieutenant colonel. **
3. No air activity was observed at the field on 4 and 5 May. Between 8:05 a.m. and 5:45 p.m. on 6 May, aircraft took off in groups of two. There was a 2/10 overcast at an altitude of 1,000 meters and a visibility of 5,000 meters. On 7 May, no flying was observed. Between 11 a.m. and 5 p.m. on 8 May, there was flying with a 8/10 overcast, an 800-meter cloud base and a visibility of 1,000 meters. Between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. on 10 May, flying was practiced. There was a 9/10 overcast, a 1,000-meter cloud base and a visibility of about 2,000 meters. No air activity was observed on 11 May.
4. After 5 May, patrols were observed around the landing field and at the hangars and installations. Motor vehicles observed between 19 April and 11 May include tanks, ambulance and radio truck on the radio installation with four masts.
5. No flying was observed at the field on 12, 15, 16 and 17 May. On 13 and 14 May, there was flying by aircraft with the red numbers 602 and 660. On 18 May, 26 MiG-15s were observed at the field. Two of them with the red numbers 602 and 603 were parked on the landing field, 8 were parked on the east edge of the landing field, and 18 were between the hangars. The latter aircraft were camouflaged by nets. There were 900 to 1,000 Soviet airmen stationed at the field. Motor vehicles were observed entering and leaving the field.
6. Between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. on 9 May, flying was practiced at the field. Eight jet fighters were parked north of the runway. These planes took off in groups of two in rapid succession. They flew for 25 to 30 minutes below the clouds at an altitude of

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about 400 meters. The landings were made individually. Between 9 and 11 a.m. on 10 May, jet fighters again took off in groups of two, one shortly after the other. The planes flew for about 20 minutes under the clouds at an altitude of about 500 meters. At 8 a.m. on 13 May, eight jet fighters, one behind the other were parked in the northwestern corner of the field. About 11 a.m., source heard the loud noise of engines in the air. Visibility was limited by the cloud base at an altitude of about 800 meters. Flying was practiced up to 5 p.m. Source did not observe that the planes landed at the field. No aircraft were observed on the installation. 25X1C

7. Motor vehicles [redacted] left the field toward Schkopau and trucks [redacted] were also observed leaving the field. ***

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* [redacted] Comment. Merseburg airfield is occupied by the headquarters of a fighter division and a fighter regiment. The reported occupation by about 1,000 soldiers agrees with the assumed authorized strength of these units.

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** [redacted] Comment. The significance of the service color of the officers is not known. The officers were probably a delegation of the fighter division headquarters which was to take part in May Day celebrations of the civilian population.

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*** [redacted] Comment. The information that there was no activity from late April to early May agrees with the observations at other airfields of the Twenty Fourth Air Army. This was probably due to May Day celebrations. The report confirms the previously reported occupation by a new fighter regiment which is still training in box formations. According to previous observations, the regiment is equipped with a total of about 30 Mig-15s.

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